IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1.   (Currently amended) A method of encoding words for language teaching comprising the steps of:

identifying a plurality of different vowel sounds each based on one or more vowels~~,~~;

representing each of the plurality of different vowel sounds by a unique vowel sound number corresponding to the particular one of the plurality of different vowel sounds and representing the plurality of different vowel sounds by one or more vowel colors~~the letters forming the vowel sound by a first indicia and a second indicia,~~;

storing the unique vowel sound numbers and one or more vowel colors for the plurality of different vowel sounds~~different first and second indicias for each vowel sound,~~;

identifying a plurality of different consonant sounds~~,~~;

representing each of the plurality of consonant sounds by a ~~third indicia and a selection of consonant sounds by a fourth indicia~~consonant color that is different from the one or more vowel colors~~,~~;

storing the ~~third and fourth indicia~~consonant color for ~~each~~the plurality of consonant sounds~~,~~;

identifying a plurality of different silent letters occurring in words~~,~~;

representing each silent letter by a silent color that is different from the consonant color and the one or more vowel colors;~~fifth indicia~~ and

storing ~~the fifth indicias for each silent letter~~the silent color for the plurality of different silent letters, whereby a word is represented by a combination of ~~the first to fifth indicia~~elements including elements selected from the group consisting of a unique vowel sound number, a vowel color, the consonant color, the silent color, and any combinations thereof.

2.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~the~~one or more ~~of the selection~~plurality of different consonant sounds comprises a consonant diagraph~~s~~.

3.   (Canceled)

4.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~each of the~~ plurality of different vowel sounds is represented by a different vowel color~~the second indicia comprises a colour~~.

5.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 4~~claim 1, wherein each of the plurality of different vowel sounds is represented by the same vowel color~~the second indicia comprises a single colour~~.

6.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the representation of the word includes one or more vowel letters corresponding to each of the vowel sounds in the word, the one or more vowel letters for each vowel sound having a corresponding one of the one or more vowel colors, ~~the third indicia comprises a colour.~~

7.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 6, wherein the representation of the word further includes the unique vowel number for each vowel sound in the word having the same one of the one or more vowel colors as the corresponding one or more vowel letters, ~~the third indicia comprises a single colour.~~

8.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said identifying a plurality of different consonant sounds includes identifying one or more consonant diagraphs and further representing each of the one or more consonant diagraphs by~~the fourth indicia comprises~~ an underscore located underneath the consonant diagraphs.

9.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said identifying a plurality of different consonant sounds includes identifying one or more letters that have a consonant sound that is different than a default sound for the one or more letters and further representing the consonant sound that is different than a default sound by ~~the fourth indicia comprises~~ a symbol.

10.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 1~~claim 9, wherein the symbol is represented as a superscript to the corresponding one or more letters.~~fifth indicia comprises a single colour.~~

11.   (Canceled)

12.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in ~~claim 11~~claim 1, wherein each of one or more of the letters of a word are represented as having the corresponding vowel color.

consonant color, or silent color ~~by a color indicative of the second, fourth or fifth indicia~~ by which the sound for the one or more letters is~~y are~~ represented.

13.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said identifying a plurality of different consonant sounds includes identifying ~~including the step of representing a~~one or more groups of consonant sounds and representing each of the one or more groups of consonant sounds by a notation indicative of the pronunciation of the group of consonant sounds ~~by a sixth indicia and storing the sixth indicia for each consonant sound represented~~.

14.   (Canceled)

15.   (Currently amended) A system for teaching a language comprising:

   a database which stores:

      a plurality of different vowel sounds, with each of the plurality of vowel sounds and ~~its~~corresponding ~~composing~~one or more letters represented by a unique vowel sound number and the plurality of different vowel sounds having one or more vowel colors~~first indicia and a second indicia~~,

      a plurality of different consonant sounds, with each of the plurality of different consonant sounds represented by a ~~third indicia and a selection of consonant sounds by a fourth indicia~~consonant color that is different than the one or more vowel colors,

      a plurality of different silent letters occurring in words, with each of the plurality of silent letters represented by a ~~fifth indicia~~silent color that is different than the one or more vowel colors and the consonant color, and

      a plurality of different words,

   a conversion means which converts each word into a converted form comprising ~~the~~ corresponding unique vowel sound number, one or more vowel colors, consonant color, and silent color~~indicia~~ and

   a display means which displays a word in converted form, and wherein the conversion means is adapted to convert a word input into the system and utilize the display means to display the word in converted form.

16.   (Currently amended) A method of displaying words for language teaching, comprising the steps of identifying a word, encoding the word into a plurality of indicia

components and displaying the encoded word comprising indicia components, wherein the plurality of indicia comprise a ~~unique vowel number for each different vowel sound and one or more vowel colors for first and second indicia representing different~~ vowel sounds and their composing letters, ~~third indicia~~a consonant color representing ~~different~~ consonant sounds, ~~fourth indicia~~a consonant symbol representing each of a selection of consonant sounds resulting from a combination of at least two letters, and ~~fifth indicia~~a silent color representing ~~different~~ silent letters occurring in words.

17.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 1, including the step of displaying a matrix with sounds of one type along one axis and sounds of another type along another.

18.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 17, including displaying a composite of sounds from each axis by a zone corresponding to a point of intersection of the sounds on the grid.

19.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 1, including the step of searching for words including at least one of ~~the~~a ~~indicia~~unique vowel number, a vowel color, a consonant color, a silent color, a vowel sound~~s~~, a consonant~~s~~, a consonant diagraph~~s~~, a silent letter~~s~~.

20.   (Previously presented) The method as claimed in claim 16, including the step of displaying a matrix with sounds of one type along one axis and sounds of another type along another.

21.   (Currently amended) The method as claimed in claim 16, including the step of searching for words including at least one of ~~the indicia~~a unique vowel number, a vowel color, a consonant color, a silent color, a vowel sound~~s~~, a consonant~~s~~, a consonant diagraph~~s~~, a silent letter~~s~~.

22.   (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, including a step of representing different strengths of one or more select vowel sounds of the plurality of different vowel sounds in one or more words by different levels of brightness or boldness of the vowel color corresponding to the select vowel sound.

23. (New) The method as claimed in claim 1, including a step of representing different strength consonant sounds in one or more words by different levels of brightness or boldness of the consonant color.

24. (New) The system as claimed in claim 15, wherein each of the plurality of vowel sounds are represented by the same vowel color.

25. (New) The method as claimed in claim 16, wherein the one or more vowel colors is the same color for all of the different vowel sounds.

[THE REST OF THIS PAGE INTENTIONALLY LEFT BLANK]